

For Immediate Release February 3, 2004

Contact: Nina Sims (804) 371-0371

Virginia's Workforce Training Programs Among Best in U.S.

~National Magazine Ranks Virginia Workforce Services 5th in the Nation~

RICHMOND — Virginia's workforce training programs have been touted among the best in the country – ranking fifth in the nation's top states for similar programs in a recent issue of *Expansion Management Magazine*. The Virginia Department of Business Assistance's Workforce Services program and several of its clients were cited.

"That ranking helps validate what businesses in Virginia have known all along," said Agency Director Chuck Mills. "The Commonwealth is dedicated to developing its workforce to best meet the needs of our corporate citizens."

The Expansion Management ranking examined various facets of each state's program, including job creation requirements, whether the program served new and expanding companies, funding restrictions, payout schedule, and wage requirements.

"The Workforce Services program of the Department of Business Assistance is one of the most popular incentive programs for both new and expanding businesses," said **Secretary of Commerce and Trade** Michael J. Schewel. "Businesses appreciate the fact that the program is flexible and customized to ensure that their workforce is effectively trained."

The Workforce Services division of the <u>Virginia Department of Business Assistance</u> provides customized recruiting and training services to companies that are creating new jobs or experiencing technological change. As a business development incentive supporting economic development efforts throughout Virginia, the program reduces the human resource development costs of new and expanding companies.

Workforce Services offers consulting services, organizational development support, electronic media services, and funding. With strong support from the Governor and the General Assembly, Workforce Services' programs are completely state-funded, demonstrating Virginia's commitment to enhancing job opportunities for its citizens.

"It is an honor to have our program recognized as one of the best in the nation," said Director of Workforce Services Preston Wilhelm. "We take great pride in delivering the highest quality services to our clients."

For more information on how the Commonwealth can help your business, please visit www.dba.state.va.us or contact the Virginia Department of Business Assistance at 804-371-8200, or toll free at 1-866-248-8814.